

STATINTL

REMARKS BY BILL SPRAGUE

BILL SPRAGUE at 6:10 PM over WRC (Washington):

SPRAGUE: "The Senate Foreign Relations Committee this afternoon approved a report on its investigation of the U-2 incident by a vote of 14-1. Senator Copehart of Indiana denounced, saying he didn't think publication of the report promotes the best interests of the United States and international relations. Senators Lausche, Democrat of Ohio, and Wiley, Republican of Wisconsin, abstained.

"The report is due for publication in Sunday papers which make it available for broadcast treatment Saturday night. Chairman Fulbright in advance, describes the document as very moderate in its criticism of the administration, "soft and tender" Fulbright said with obvious implication that he personally found the handling of the affair most unsatisfactory.

"Another Democrat is on the hearing, Senator Mansfield, rounded off with independent views on the matter today. In a thirty-three page speech he blamed the flight itself, which evidently regarded as ill-timed, on "bureaucratic inertia, lack of coordination and control, and insensitivity to its potential cost, and to any conscious decision of politically responsible leadership." Administration officials have tried to make clear that continuing U-2 spy flights were necessary, a vital element of the intelligence process. They've also cited evidence to prove that the collapse of the summit meetings which Mansfield evidently refers to when he talks about potential cost was decided upon by Khrushchev well in advance of the capture of spy pilot Powers.

"Aside from that though, Senator Mansfield in his speech also laid down an interesting if debatable blueprint for revamping the executive department of the government. His ten-point program starts with the abolition of the National Security Council. He'd then make the regular cabinet the president's principal source of advice. An inner council instead with matters of critical importance in defense and security would consist of the president, the defense secretary and the secretary of state. He would downgrade the vice-president, limit him to presiding over the Senate and ceremonial duties. He emphasized this wasn't meant as a criticism of Vice-President Nixon though.